

Congregational Church of the Valley

your community Congregational Church

Newsletter

July 2011

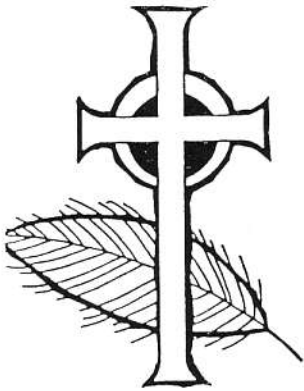


*"And above all these put on love,
which binds everything together
in perfect harmony."*

Colossians 3:14

Our Covenant

We covenant with the Lord and one with another and do acknowledge our faith in Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior and take for our rule of life His own words: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind and with all thy strength; and thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."



FROM PASTOR LYLE

NO LOOKING BACK! - not as easy to do as it is to say it! Numbers of people had said to Jesus, "I will follow You Lord, but first ..." Luke 9:57-62, read it. He ended His words to them with, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the Kingdom of God." No one can ever say that he was induced to follow Jesus under false pretenses. It does take dedication and

commitment! One fellow said to Jesus, "Let me first go bury my father." This was not an uncommon statement. The point Jesus is making is that in everything there is a crucial moment, and, if that moment is missed, the thing will most likely never be done at all. The man in the story had stirrings in his heart to get out of his spiritually dead surroundings. If he missed that moment, he may well never get out. I remember my father saying that as you plough that first furrow across the field, be sure you keep your eye on the goal. And, it is true that no ploughman ever ploughed a straight furrow looking back over his shoulder, or, by talking about the "good ole' days". Christian people and Christian churches look not to the sunset but to the dawn – not backwards but forward! Sing that song again ... "Onward, Christian Soldiers"! Truth is, and we all know it, Jesus accepts no lukewarm service! In these days, especially, the Church needs to make her voice heard and her action seen. This **IS** the way to joy and fulfillment!

CAROLE AND I HAVE SO ENJOYED THE TIME THAT WE HAVE SPENT WITH ALL OF YOU! I'm not sure what all has been accomplished ... but I am aware that a lot of wonderful people have put their shoulder to the wheel! Friendships have been made that will go on and on! Real Christian love and service is **SO** evident! **ALL OF US MUST KEEP ON KEEPING ON!**

What happens from here on? I have no doubt but that you and Lafe and Lori will bond! Carole and I will remain members at the Congregational Church of the Valley ... and have agreed with Lafe and Lori to be "available", but also to stay at "arms length." You see, all of us are God's children and followers of Christ ... when we live by that ... He will give the directions! We really believe that ... Will you believe that with us?

Many Scriptural teachings encourage us ... but one in particular always "warms the cockles of our hearts" ... Matthew 6:33. "Seek Ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all things needful will be added unto you." **HE** leads the way! Let's follow, together!



PLYMOUTH GUILD

At June's Guild meeting we discussed continuing our hiatus from baking! We will resume our bake sales in a couple of months when things cool down! Our July meeting to be held on July 9th at 9 a.m., will include our Back-to-School Breakfast. All the ladies of the church are invited. You will see a sign-up sheet located in the foyer. Debbie Burkett from the Chandler Public Housing Youth Program will be our guest speaker and will be collecting school supplies that everyone has been donating to our "School Bus" in the foyer. Please join us! There will be lots of food, even special Danish pastries ordered from Wisconsin (Pecan and Turtle Kringles) ! Remember to bring your school supply donations that morning, as Debbie will be picking them up that morning.

Please don't forget that our basket in the foyer needs donations of non-perishable food items for the Chandler Food Bank.

The Thrift Shop continues to be very popular. There are new items there, so check it out!

The Guild decided on The Salvation Army for the July mission. Remember, you can designate a portion of your offering towards missions by indicating so on your offering envelope.

Cindy Palmer, President





ON THE HORIZON

Church Council meets on Thursday, July 7th at 7 p.m.

Plymouth Guild "Back to School Breakfast" and meeting on Saturday, July 9th, at 9:00 a.m. All ladies of the church are welcome. Don't forget to bring some school supplies for the "school bus" in the foyer.

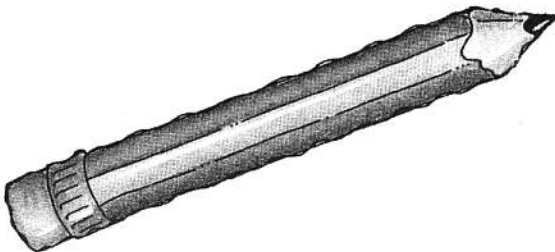
Rev. Lafe Murray, our future minister, will be arriving July 11th. He will begin preaching on July 17th, so plan to be in church to welcome him and Lori.

Board of Trustees and Deaconesses meet on Thursday, July 21st at 7:00.

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BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES

It's just the beginning of July, but it's that time of the year to look for back to school items for the needy children of Chandler. Many of them start back to school in late July. The purpose of our "School Bus" in the foyer is to collect items such as pencils, rulers, crayons, paper, notebooks, backpacks, etc. They will be picked up on July 9th by Debbie Burkett from the Chandler Public Housing Youth Program. These items really make a difference in the lives of these underprivileged children. Please help us out!





KATHLEEN'S KORNER

We would like to wish a Happy Birthday to all members and friends celebrating their birthdays this July:

<i>Jim Trenam</i>	<i>July 2nd</i>	<i>Robert Kirshman</i>	<i>July 22nd</i>
<i>Kaleigh Daniel</i>	<i>July 3rd</i>	<i>Glen Palmer</i>	<i>July 26th</i>
<i>Nancy Miller</i>	<i>July 9th</i>	<i>Nicholas Humphrey</i>	<i>July 26th</i>
<i>Bob Newman</i>	<i>July 15th</i>	<i>Bonnie Revis</i>	<i>July 27th</i>
<i>Julie Daly</i>	<i>July 15th</i>		

Please keep John Porter, Betty Wilson and Kelly Phuong in your prayers and continue to remember in prayer Barb Ross, Barbara Smith, and Audrey Robinson and many others with chronic illnesses and unable to get out much. Please call me at the church office if you would like me to mention you or a family member for a prayer request in the next church newsletter. We need to pray for each other.

I would like to thank Pastor Lyle and Carole for their faithful dedication to our church congregation over these many years. I am sure the church boards and church officers feel the same way. Fortunately Lyle and Carole are not leaving our fellowship, but will continue to worship with us. This is wonderful. I am looking forward to working with our new minister, Pastor Lafe, and his wife, Lori. I will do my very best to assist in making this transition go smoothly.

If you have any announcement or item you wish to appear in the August Newsletter, please have it in my in-box in the church office no later than Sunday, July 31st. Thanks!



CHURCH OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

Officers:

Moderator: Paul Petroff (480)634-7124

Church Clerk: Betty Caruthers (480)898-9586

Treasurer: Denise Thomas (480)899-5769

Financial Secretary: Kathleen Trenam (480)814-9066

Church Secretary: Kathleen Trenam

Organist and Director of Music: Ruth Knight (480)816-3650

Trustee Board:

Chr., Cal Thomas (480)899-5769

Tap Phuong (480)633-7804

Glen Palmer (480)632-9259

Jim Slagle (Ad Hoc) (480)497-1169

Deacon/Deaconess Board:

Joyce Newman (480) 895-7949

ChaCha Tabor (480) 963-6944

Judy Bowles (480)857-6259

Board of Education:

Chr., Kelly Phuong (480)633-7804

Nancy Miller (480)706-5074

Barbara Tran (480)703-6596

Plymouth Guild:

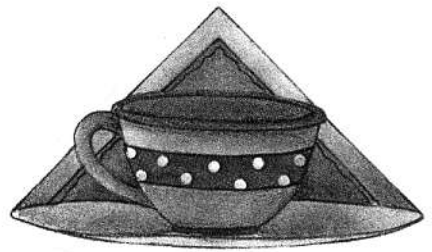
President, Cindy Palmer (480)632-2959

Vice Pres., Bonnie Revis (480)814-7040

Sec'y, Kathleen Trenam (480)814-9066

Treasurer, Joyce Newman (480)895-7949





REFRESHMENTS

We all love to nibble on cookies or cake following the morning church service. Please notice the sign-up sheet in the foyer for refreshments. We need volunteers to bring refreshments. So, please sign up for a future Sunday and bring some goodies for all of us to enjoy! Thanks!!

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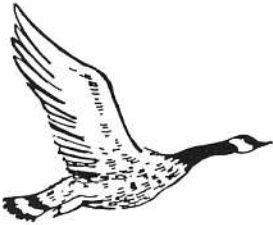
THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS AND WELCOME TO PASTOR LAFE AND LORI

The congregation is very thankful to Pastor Lyle and Carole for their many years of faithful service to our church. There have been many challenges through the years, but they both were dedicated to the Lord's work here and continued to lead us. We all pray that both of them will have more time to enjoy life, serve the Lord, and find other endeavors to challenge them. We look forward to worshiping and serving the Lord together with them in the future, here at the Congregation Church of the Valley. A special dinner will be planned in their honor after summer ends and vacations are over. More information will follow in future Newsletters so all can plan to participate.

So, it's not a sad goodbye because they are not leaving the area. That's the best part! But it's time to move forward with Pastor Lafe Murray at the helm as of mid-July. We should all be praying for him and his wife, Lori, as they make this big move to Arizona and get settled in their new home here in Chandler. We should all do whatever we can to assist them in this transition. Let's give them a big welcome and plan to attend church on Sunday, July 17th.

WINGS

*Oh, to catch the winds of flight
And soar where eagles go,
To leave the woes of troubled souls
Behind me far below.
I'd listen to the song of birds
And sail in endless flight,
Then chase the sun through cloudy paths
And play with stars at night.*



*The boundless heavens for my home,
The breeze to lift me high,
To rise above my mortal bonds
And never have to die.
Knowing I had found the way
To trails where angels trod,
And when my wings could fly no more -
I'd take the hand of GOD!*

C. David Hay

Congregational Church of the Valley

your community congregational church
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